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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

SEP 23 2005

Attention: Mr. William P. BERRIDGE

FACSIMILE + E-MAIL

Please acknowledge receipt by fax

Paris, 23 September 2005

Your reference: 116640  
Our reference: BR37626/CR/CT/sb  
Re: US Patent Application filed on July 21, 2003 under No. 10/622,446 in the name of Gregory TUC *et al.*  
(assigned to COMPAGNIE PLASTIC OMNIUM)

Dear Mr. Berridge:

I refer to your May 4, 2005 letter.

You will find enclosed my instructions to respond to the outstanding Office Action.

Please advise me before filing the response if you intend to abandon or add arguments.

Please let me know if you have any comment concerning the Response.

The Client wishes to expedite prosecution and reduce the procedure costs.

Please file an appropriate reply on or before:

September 27, 2005,

and confirm.

Please send me a fresh copy of the pending claims for my file.

Very truly yours,

André LESZCZYNSKI

Encl.: Note for responding to the Office Action,  
Claims (by e-mail).

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**NOTE FOR RESPONDING TO THE OFFICE ACTION**

Please contact the Examiner to discuss the following amendments and arguments.

**I/ Amendments to the claims**

Please find enclosed a set of amended claims.

Claim 1 has been amended in order to recite *inter alia* that the two fixing tabs are offset along the longitudinal axis of the tubular element when the fixing element is mounted on the tubular element.

Claim 4 has been amended.

Claim 11 has been amended in order to recite *inter alia* that the stiffening ribs are configured for bearing against a main face of the panel when the panel is assembled with the fixing element.

**II/ Arguments**

Claim 1 recites *inter alia*:

*...two fixing tabs being offset along said longitudinal axis of the tubular element ...*

TRAFTON (US 4 142 343) discloses brackets (30) or (40) without fixing tabs offset along a longitudinal axis (2) of the tubular element (1).

Thus TRAFTON cannot anticipate the present invention as recited in amended claim 1.